Statement

Allocation and Offtake of Rice, Wheat and Sugar under PDS to Assam during the last three years.

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

Commodity	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
Rice	590.850	438.310	620.000	555.050	490.000	410.068
Wheat	323.080	193.940	363.600	311.867	183.000**	192.277**
Sugar*	117.184		117.184		133.501	

* Lifting of levy sugar is assumed to be 100%.

** April to December, 99.

Off-take of PDS

166. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details regarding the offtake of PDS since 1991-92 to 1999-2000;

(b) whether Government would take any steps to enhance the offtake; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil and kerosene are allocated to the State Governments for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS). The State-wise details of allocation and offtake of rice, wheat, sugar and edible oil since 1991-92 to 1999-2000 may be seen in Annexure A to I [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 4]. State-wise details of kerosene offtake for the years from 1992-93 to 1999-2000 may be seen in Annexure [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 5].

Generally lifting of sugar by the State Government is to the full extent of allotment.

(b) and (c) Offtake of foodgrains from the PDS is dependent on the difference between the open market prices and the PDS end retail prices. Under the Targeted Public Distribution System the Central Issue Prices for the quota of foodgrains for families living below poverty line has been kept at a low level which ensures higher offtake.

Offtake of edible oil under PDS depends upon the availability of edible oils in the open market and the prices thereof. However, with a view to improve offtake of edible under PDS the Government had last reduced the Central Issue Price by about 33% with effect from 27.2.99.

The State Governments have been advised to follow the following schedule for uplifting the PDS Kerosene.

60% by 10th of the month.

25% during the next week, and

balance 15% during the following week.

Import of rice

167. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice import by private traders into the country are on the rise;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its impact on the P.D.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Available official data upto October, 1999 does not indicate any increase in rice imports by private traders.